Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn)

2. (Withdrawn).

3. (Withdrawn)

4. (Withdrawn)

5. (Withdrawn)

6. (Withdrawn)

7. (Withdrawn)

8. (Currently amended) A method for real-time online search processing over inter-connected computer networks, the method comprises the steps of:

    a. accessing an offline database having vendor descriptions for a plurality of vendor sites, including vendor sites in different native languages, over inter-connected computer networks, the vendor descriptions having information about each of the plurality of vendor sites that include:

        i. a URL for each of the plurality of vendor sites;

        ii. a search form URL for each of the plurality of vendors;

        iii. description of domains found in each of the plurality of vendor sites;

        iv. generalized rules about how product information is organized on each of the plurality of vendor sites;

v. samples of price and product information retrieved from the plurality of vendors;

b. receiving from an online user, in one of the different native languages, a price comparison request for a desired product;

c. identifying from the vendor descriptions, vendor sites which may have price information relevant to the price comparison request;

d. constructing search requests for the desired product using the vendor descriptions for each of the identified vendor sites, including the corresponding search form URL;

e. submitting directly to the identified vendor sites the constructed search requests;

f. extracting price and product information from search results received in response to the submitted search requests, wherein the extracted price and product information are in a the one of the different native languages language of the site; and

g. displaying the extracted price and product information to the user.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the general rules include delimiters which can uniquely identify the occurrence of price and associated information within each of the plurality of vendors.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the URLs of the plurality of vendor sites, and the extracted price and product information are stored in a database.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the URLs of the plurality of vendor sites, and the extracted price and product information which are stored in the database are updated periodically.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the URLs of the plurality of vendor sites and the extracted price and product information, which are stored in the database, are automatically updated daily.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein each of the plurality of vendor descriptions is specific to a different online store.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein only one vendor description for each different online store is stored in a database.

15. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the extracting step includes the step of verifying accurate matches in the search results received in response to the submitted search requests with the desired product.

16. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the displaying step includes the step of displaying price and product information for the desired product only from the vendor site having the best price.

17. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the displaying step includes the step of displaying price and product information for the desired product in a selectable arrangement.

18. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the displaying step includes the step of displaying price and product information for the desired product and which has been sorted according to price.

19. (Original) The method of claim 8, further includes a step of user authentication comprising a security interface.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the security interface categorizes users as temporary trial and life members.

21. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein vendors in the plurality of vendor sites are registered or non-registered vendors.

22. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the vendor descriptions are automatically constructed through an inductive learning method.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the inductive learning method can work in multilingual environments.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the inductive learning method is domain independent.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the inductive learning method operates in multiple domains such as books, electronic products, movies, or other products.

26. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the inductive learning method uses a small set of training data.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the training data includes product examples and the URL from online stores.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the inductive learning method can extract and identify data independent of presentation style of the online store.

29. (Currently amended) A method for real-time online search processing over inter-connected computer networks, the method comprises the steps of:

    a. maintaining in an offline database information for a plurality of vendor sites, including vendor sites in different native languages, over inter-connected computer networks, the information includes URLs, search form URLs, description of domains, and vendor descriptions, wherein the vendor descriptions include generalized rules about how product information is organized on each of the vendor sites;

    b. processing parameters for a price comparison request, received from an online user in one of the different native languages, for a desired product using the information maintained in the offline database, while including identifying from the vendor descriptions vendor sites which may have price information relevant to the price comparison request is received from an online user;

c. extracting real-time price and product information from <u>the</u> identified ones of the plurality of vendor sites from information received in response to search requests constructed using the information maintained in the offline data base for each of the identified vendor sites, including a search form URL, and submitted directly to the identified vendor sites, wherein the extracted price and product information are in ~~a~~ <u>the one of the different</u> native <u>languages</u> ~~language of the site~~; and

d. displaying the extracted price and product information to the user.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the step of receiving a price comparison request further comprises the step of receiving from the user at least one search parameter and an identification of at least one online vendor on said computer network; and further wherein the extracting step includes the steps of

i. posting a request using the processed parameters to at least one of the plurality of vendors online, in real-time; and

ii. retrieving data related to the price and product information from search results obtained in response to the posting step;

iii. sorting the retrieved data by price; and

iv. displaying processed data for the desired product from at least one of the plurality of vendors.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of receiving a price comparison request is initiated by the online user.

32. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein in the step of posting a request, the processed parameters are the combination of the search parameters and vendor identification received from the user, vendor description for the identified vendor, and the URL of the identified vendor.

33. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the vendor descriptions maintained in the offline database includes patterns which identify information in vendor sites, and further wherein the step of retrieving data employs the patterns.

34. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of extracting real-time price and product information is domain-independent and language-independent.

35. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of displaying the processed data is based on composing information to be displayed in HTML.